

Abstract

An optical pickup apparatus for shining light on an optical disk having two recording layers and for detecting reflected light from the optical disk includes a light source, an optical system situated on a path of a light beam returning from the optical disk inclusive of light reflected by a first recording layer of the optical disk and light reflected by a second recording layer of the optical disk, the optical system including a light condensing optical unit to turn the returning light beam into a condensing light beam, and a light beam regulating unit to extract from the condensing light beam a partial light beam corresponding to part of a cross section of the condensing light beam, and one or more photo detectors, situated between a position where the light reflected by the first recording layer contained in the partial light beam is condensed and a position where the light reflected by the second recording layer contained in the partial light beam is condensed, the one or more photo detectors having a first photo detecting section to detect the light reflected by the first recording layer and a second photo detecting section to detect the light reflected by the second

recording layer.